

Message Text

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USDEL SALZBURG

UNCLAS CAIRO 5430

FOR IOP/M

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FORD-SADAT MEETING

REF: USIA 12095

1. IN LEAD FRONTPAGE STORIES, CAIRO PAPERS ON JUNE 1 COVER PRESS STATEMENTS BY U.S. AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ON FORD-SADAT MEETING. ALL PAPERS REPORT WARNING IN MADRID BY "UNNAMED TOP U.S. OFFICIAL" THAT "LACK OF PROGRESS IN PEACE EFFORTS WOULD MEAN NEW ME WAR." AL AHAM AND AL AKHBAR REPORT OFFICIAL'S PREDICTION THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S TALKS WITH SADAT AND RABIN WILL LEAD TO RESUMPTION OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH.

2. AL AKHBAR'S LEAD REFLECTS SADAT'S "CONFIDENCE" THAT TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD WILL RESULT IN "NEW AND DECISIVE ACTION TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT." ALL PAPERS, HOWEVER, REPORT SADAT'S VIENNA STATEMENTS TO PRESS ON EGYPT'S "READINESS TO DISCUSS ANY NEW STEP THAT WOULD LEAD TO ACTUAL PROGRESS IN ME PEACE EFFORTS." SADAT ALSO SAID EGYPT IS IN NO POSITION TO BARGAIN BECAUSE "IT IS ISRAEL WHICH OCCUPIES LANDS." SADAT, ACCORDING TO AL AHAM AND AL AKHBAR, REVEALED CONVICTION THAT HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD WILL FOCUS ON "REACTIV-ATING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE" AND DISCUSSING PRACTICAL STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION. PAPERS ALSO REPORT SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT EGYPT IS NOT ASKING U.S. TO ABANDON ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL,
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"BUT JUST ASKING WHETHER U.S. SUPPORTS ISRAEL WITHIN ITS PRE-1967

BORDERS OR SUPPORTS ITS OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS." IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERY ABOUT IMPACT OF 76 SENATORS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD, BOTH AL AHRAH AND AL AKHBAR REPORTS THAT SADAT SAID THAT "SUCH PEOPLE HAVE NOT YET LEARNED LESSON OF VIETNAM. THEY MAINTAIN THAT MORE ARMS WILL MAKE ISRAEL MORE FLEXIBLE IN PEACE EFFORTS. BUT, CLEARLY, ISRAEL BECOMES NOT ONLY MORE STUBBORN, BUT ALSO DEFIES U.S. ITSELF."

3. PRESS IN GENERAL REFERS TO EGYPTIANPRESS COMMUNIQUE IN VIENNA THAT "ME IS NOW AT CROSSROADS." FURTHER REFERENCE IS MADE TO STATEMENT BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN TAHSIN BASHIR THAT SADAT "HAS SUCCEEDED IN MOBILIZING SUPPORT FROM ARAB, EUROPEAN, NON-ALIGNED AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES," AND TO SADAT'S STATEMENT TO EGYPTIAN STUDENTS IN VIENNA THAT "MOSCOW REJECTS STEP-BY-STEP POLICY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WANT ONLY U.S. TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE."

4. AL AHRAH AND AL AKHBAR FRONTPAGE SADAT'S STATEMENTS TO YUGOSLAV TV TO EFFECT THAT "ANY AMERICAN OR SOVIET POLARIZATION IN GENEVA ME PEACE CONFERENCE WILL LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF SITUATION."

5. AL GOMHOURIYA REPORTS THAT FORD-SADAT TALKS WILL COVER "ECONOMIC ASPECTS IN LIGHT OF WHAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED SO FAR BY ECONOMIC EXPERTS OF BOTH BOUNTRIES AND WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENTS DISCUSSED DURING NIXON'S CAIRO VISIT."

6. EDITORIALY, AL AHRAH SAYS THAT FORD-SADAT MEETING "IS TEST FOR U.S. INTENTION FOLLOWING FAILURE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MISSION TO ACHIEVE ANOTHER DISENGAGEMENT." COLUMN IN AL AHRAH BY AHMED ATTIYA DISUCSSES "PRESIDENT FORD'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS IN SLAZBURG." AS RESULT OF INDO-CHINA WAR, ATTIYA SAYS, "WHITE HOUSE POSITION HAS WEAKENED AND CONGRESS HAS BECOME STRONGER IN U.S. BALACNE OF POWER." WITH THIS STRENGTH, ZIONIST PRESSURE GROUPS HAVE BECOME STRONGER TOO, ATTIYA POINTS OUT. WRITER ALSO MENTIONS THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S POSITION, AS FAR AS U.S. PUBLIC OPINION IS CONCERNED, "IS NOT STRONG" BECAUSE HE IS NOT ELECTED PRESIDENT. U.S. PUBLIC OPINION, IN ATTIYA'S VIEW "CONTINUES IN ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WITH FUNDS AND ARMS AS LONG AS SUCH SUPPORT DOES NOT ENTAIL SENDING OF U.S. FORCES TO ME." EDITORIALS IN OTHER PAPERS REPEATED IMPORTANCE OF SALZBURG MEETINGS.

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